THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL FOR COUNTRY LIFE

AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S ACRE MOVEMENT

The Christian ideal for country life, as I conceive the ideal, is that of a people throughout the countryside all having and accepting the opportunity to earn and enjoy a just living on their own farms; all entering upon the privileges of a sound education; all having the knowledge and safeguards for good health; and all united, as families and members of the community, in Christian friendship and in growing Christian purposes.

The Lord's Acre movement, adding spiritual direction and meaning to the daily farm life, increasing support to the church, and developing Christian character as its great fruit, is a most valuable contribution to this ideal.

JAMES G. K. MCCLURE, JR.
President, Farmers Federation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the Storehouse.
Malachi, 3:10.

THE REASONS FOR THE LORD'S ACRE PLAN IN THE COUNTRY CHURCH

I. The Lord's Acre plan is the natural method of church support for the farmer. The farmer often has not ready cash; but he can always grow a crop and give the cash yield to the Church.

II. It is the most concrete, practical and progressive of all plans for church support, in that it provides for setting apart a definite contribution for the church at the beginning of the year, instead of relying, as so often is the case, upon an indefinite 'left over.'

III. The Lord's Acre plan is not exclusive of, but is complementary to, the cash pledge system—and supports the cash pledge. Or it may be used as the chief means of support.

IV. Experience shows that, where fairly tried, the Lord's Acre plan invariably increases the contributions to the church and the number of contributors.

V. The Lord's Acre plan is an ideal method, when used in conjunction with the Sunday School, for interesting children in the Christian life and for training them in Christian giving. It is the highly valued project-method of educators, with a spiritual motive back of it.

VI. The Lord's Acre plan is a spiritual exercise or influence, during six days of the week, for all church members and other participants in the plan. The experience of churches which have used the plan for years is that it has great influence in raising up leaders in Church and in Sunday School and in Young Peoples Societies.

VII. The Lord's Acre plan, through the special interest taken by the participant in his project, is a definite factor in encouraging better farming. It raises both the economic and the spiritual level of farm life.

VIII. It is a method tested and proved through years of systematic development. It is steadily, rapidly growing; and is spreading to churches in many parts of the world.

IX. The Lord's Acre plan, as it becomes used by the several churches in each community, tends to increase the fellowship between all Christians.

X. Finally the Lord's Acre plan truly exemplifies the principles of the Old Testament and the teaching of Jesus. One of Jesus' great teachings on discipleship may be thus summarized:

> Whosoever would be saved
> into the spirit of the Lord,
> Must become daily a co-
> worker with the Lord.
>
> (Luke 9:23, 24.)

TESTIMONIALS

Dr. D. M. Litaker, Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Asheville District: "My experience with the Lord's Acre plan, extending over three years, shows me that it interferes with nothing in church life and that it helps everything. I commend it heartily."

Rev. A. I. Justice, Baptist Minister in Western North Carolina for sixty years: "As one who has ministered to and who has watched the whole life of our Baptist churches for sixty years, I testify to my earnest desire to have the Lord's Acre plan adopted by every one of our country churches."

Dr. R. P. Smith, Minister of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., for fifty-six years, and Superintendent Emeritus of Home Missions in Asheville Presbytery: "I have not only observed the Lord's Acre movement grow from its beginning, but in my earlier years I myself as a pastor found the Lord's Acre plan most valuable. There is spiritual power in this movement, and I want to do all that I can to further its development."

Issued by the Religious Department of the
Farmers Federation
REV. DUMONT CLARKE *Director,*
Asheville, North Carolina.